1	2	3	4	5
9.	Crafts Development Centre	—	—	—
10.	Revival of Languishing Crafts	2.51	—	—
	TOTAL:—	17.28	26.44	28.43

Earning of Foreign Exchange from Export of Jute Goods

4247. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of diversified jute products during the last three years;

(b) the major importing countries and the main items exported to them; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to boost the exports of jute products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total amount of foreign exchange earned from export of diversified jute products during the last three years is as under:

Year	*Value (in Mn. US$)*
1993-94	5.78
1994-95	13.29
1995-96	15.62

(b) The names of major countries to whom diversified jute products are exported are given below:

Country	*Item*
U.K.	Decorative Fabrics
Belgium	Soil Saver
Germany	Shopping bags
Spain	Webbing
Malayasia	Felts
U.S.A.	Mattings
Australia	Dyed Fabrics
Japan	Decrorative Fabrics

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government to boost export of jute products. Jute Manufactures Development Council has been participating in various trade fairs, exhibitions, organising buyerseller meetings, seminars, workshops, sponsoring delegations in international market and launching publicity campaigns under its own funds and funds provided under UNDP jute programme.

External Market Assistance Scheme

4248. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aims, objectives and functioning of External Market Assistance Scheme launched by Government alongwith date of its inception;

(b) whether the scheme has been revised with effect from 1st April, 1997; and

(c) if so, the changes incorporated therein alongwith justification for each of them?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The External Market Assistance Scheme was introduced by the Govt. with effect from 8.2.1989 to boost export of jute diversified products. The Scheme is operated by Jute Manufacturers Development Council, by providing a market assistance in the form of subsidy on export of specified jute diversified products at the notified rates on the FOB value realisation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The EMA scheme has been revised with effect from 1.4.97. The list of items including changes that have been included for assistance under the scheme is at Statement (*See* below).

The selection of items in the revised scheme has been made with the objective of encouraging export of value added products and also keeping in view

the employment potential in the sector to which these items belong.

Statement

The List of items under the revised EMA Scheme

Items eligible for assistance under EMA Scheme from 1.4.95 to 31.3.97

(1) Jute Yarn

(2) Jute or Jute blended union Decorative fabrics.

(3) Jute and Jute Blended garments.

Items eligible for assistance under EMA Scheme from 1.4.97

1. Jute or Jute blended/covered yarn, single and multiplied provided the weight of the yarn does not exceed 10,000 decitex.

2. Jute or Jute blended floor covering and mattings.

3. Jute or jute blended/union decorative fabrics provided the FOB value is more than Rs. 40,000 per M.T.

4. Jute wall hangings.

5. Jute Handicrafts.

6. Jute and jute blended garments and made-ups.

7. Carpet Backing Cloth.

The rate of assistance for item Nos. (1) and (7) above will be at 5% of the FOB value. The rate of assistance for the remaining items will be rate at 10% of FOB value.

All the categories of above products should correspond to the Indian Trade Classification (based on Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System).

Additional Fund for Promotion of Handloom Industry in Orissa

4249. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for allocation of more funds for the promotion and development of handloom industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no Statewise allocation of funds under the Handloom Development Schemes. However, based on proposals received from the state government, funds to the tune of Rs. 776.83 lakhs were released to the Government of Orissa during 1996-97 under various Handloom Development Schemes for promotion of handloom industry.

Problems of cotton growers

4250. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the main cotton growing States in the country with Statewise details of production during the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cotton growers in the country are currently facing acute problems on account of the low price of their yield; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The required information has been indicated in Statemeent (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. The prices for most varieties of cotton are higher as compared to the prices prevailing during the corresponding period last year.